



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 01 May 2007

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Los Angeles Times reports a gasoline tanker truck crashed and exploded Sunday, April 29, causing a 170-foot stretch of a major Bay Area freeway interchange to warp and collapse on the freeway below, forcing the closure of two damaged sections of the heavily traveled system which carries 270,000 vehicles to and from San Francisco each day. (See item [9](#))
- The Associated Press reports public health experts are concerned that a shortage of farm animal veterinarians could lead to disease outbreaks, potentially endangering human health and risking the nation's food supply, with concerns centered on more than 800 diseases that can spread from animals to humans. (See item [16](#))
- USA TODAY reports a deadly hemorrhagic septicemia virus is killing fish of all types in the Great Lakes, which some scientists fear could trigger a disaster for the nation's freshwater fish. (See item [18](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *April 28, Poughkeepsie Journal (NY)* — **Nuclear plant sirens go off accidentally.** Emergency sirens around the Indian Point nuclear plants near Buchanan, NY, were activated accidentally

Friday afternoon, April 27, the plants' owner said. A technician was performing what was supposed to be a silent test about 3:30 p.m. EDT when he accidentally set off sirens in the Westchester County portion of the 10-mile emergency zone, said Entergy Nuclear Northeast spokesperson Jim Steets. The sirens that sounded were part of a new system that is not yet in operation, and they sound a bit different from the existing sirens. The sirens are meant to alert residents to turn on their radios for information about an emergency at the plant. There were no immediate signs residents did more than that. Westchester sent a notification of the accidental soundings to residents who had signed up to a county e-mail service, spokesperson Victoria Hochman said. The sirens apparently wailed for less than the four minutes prescribed for a real emergency.

Source: <http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070428/NEWS01/704280318>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

2. *April 30, Government Accountability Office — GAO-07-618: Defense Management: High-Level Leadership Commitment and Actions Are Needed to Address Corrosion Issues (Report).* Corrosion can have a deleterious effect on military equipment and infrastructure in terms of cost, readiness, and safety. Recognizing this concern, the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2003 required the Department of Defense (DoD) to designate an official or organization to oversee and coordinate efforts to prevent and mitigate corrosion. Recently, the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2006 directed the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to examine the effectiveness of DoD's corrosion prevention and mitigation programs. In addition, GAO evaluated the extent to which DoD has incorporated corrosion prevention planning in acquiring weapon systems. GAO reviewed strategy documents, reviewed corrosion prevention planning for 51 recent major weapon system acquisitions, and interviewed DoD and military service officials. GAO is recommending that the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics ensure that actions designed to effectively implement DoD's corrosion prevention strategy are taken. In commenting on a draft of this report, DoD partially concurred with GAO's four recommendations. DoD's actions are generally responsive to the intent of GAO's recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07618high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-618>

3. *April 30, Government Accountability Office — GAO-07-799T: Defense Acquisitions: Missile Defense Agency's Flexibility Reduces Transparency of Program Cost (Testimony).* Over the next five years the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) expects to invest \$49 billion in the BMD system's development and fielding. MDA's strategy is to field new capabilities in

two-year blocks. In January 2006, MDA initiated its second block — Block 2006 — to protect against attacks from North Korea and the Middle East. Congress requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to assess MDA's progress annually. GAO's March 2007 report addressed MDA's progress during fiscal year 2006 and followed up on program oversight issues and the current status of MDA's quality assurance program. GAO assessed the progress of each element being developed by MDA, examined acquisition laws applicable to major acquisition programs, and reviewed the impact of implemented quality initiatives. GAO continues to encourage the Department of Defense (DoD) to act on prior recommendations to implement a knowledge-based acquisition strategy for all BMDS elements and to adopt more transparent criteria for reporting each element's quantities, cost, and performance. In March 2007, GAO recommended that DoD adopt firm baselines, use procurement funds for operational assets, and adopt other measures to better track cost and outcomes against goals. DoD did not agree to an element-based reporting approach.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07799thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-799T>

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Banking and Finance Sector

4. *April 30, InformationWeek* — **E-Gold indicted for money laundering, conspiracy.** A federal grand jury last week indicted the three owners of two companies operating a digital currency business on charges of money laundering, conspiracy, and operating an unlicensed money transmitting business. The four-count indictment, which was unsealed last Friday, April 27, charges E-Gold Ltd., Gold & Silver Reserve, Inc., and the business owners. Each is being hit with one count of conspiracy to launder monetary instruments, one count of conspiracy to operate an unlicensed money transmitting business, one count of operating an unlicensed money transmitting business under federal law and one count of money transmission without a license under D.C. law. "The advent of new electronic currency systems increases the risk that criminals, and possibly terrorists, will exploit these systems to launder money and transfer funds globally to avoid law enforcement scrutiny and circumvent banking regulations and reporting," said Assistant Director James E. Finch, of the FBI's Cyber Division. Founded in the 1990s, e-Gold allows users to move monetary funds across the Internet by transferring ownership of gold bars. A user can move money online simply by transferring a tiny amount of gold to another user's account instantly, and e-Gold earns a commission on each transfer.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/internet/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=YROFUVHNYMILCOSNDLRCKHSCJUNN2JVN?articleID=199202536&articleID=199202536>

5. *April 30, WJHG 7 (FL)* — **Threat on Florida bank resolved quickly.** A Washington County, FL, man has been jailed on charges of making a bomb threat at Regions Bank in Chipley. Carvil Howard Perdue was charged with making threats to place a destructive device into a facility. On Wednesday afternoon, April 25, Chipley Police and Washington County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a call that a bomb was supposed to be in the bank. The bank was evacuated and searched until an all clear was given. Within two hours of the initial threat being made, deputies arrested Perdue.

Source: <http://www.wjhg.com/news/headlines/7202401.html>

6. *April 28, United Press International* — **Phishers use call forwarding to mask fraud sponsored links.** Researchers at SecureWorks have uncovered a new type of phishing attack that tries to trick victims into forwarding their telephone calls to the attacker to thwart attempts by a bank to detect fraud. The attack, found this week, begins with an e-mail sent from the phisher telling the potential victim their bank needs to verify their phone number immediately, and their account will be suspended if they do not confirm the number. The victim is told to confirm their number by dialing *72 and then another number, effectively forwarding their calls to the phisher's telephone. The victim is then asked in the e-mail to update their personal information, such as bank account and Social Security numbers. If the victim's bank calls to question an unusual transaction while the calls are being forwarded, the phisher need only confirm the illegal transaction is legitimate, SecureWorks researcher Don Jackson wrote. Jackson said these types of attacks are currently not widespread, but may become so in the future as more banks use out-of-band authentication — such as telephone calls — to check the validity of suspicious transactions.
Source: <http://www.physorg.com/news96988034.html>
7. *April 27, SecurityFocus* — **No pay off in extortion attacks?** Denial-of-service attacks against online service providers have declined, suggesting that extortion attacks don't pay, a security engineer at Symantec stated in the company's blog on Thursday, April 26. The brief analysis attempts to explain a 15 percent decline in attacks noted by the company's bi-annual Internet Security Threat Report. Symantec witnessed a drop, from 6,110 denial-of-service (DoS) attacks in the first half of 2006 to 5,213 attacks in the latter half of 2006. "The thing is that DoS attacks are loud and risky," Yazan Gable, security response engineer for Symantec, stated in the blog post. "Whenever a bot-network owner carries out a denial of service attack they run the risk of losing some of their bots." Bot masters are increasingly focusing on spamming and stealing financial account data. Researchers have discovered a number of underground e-commerce servers on the Internet that attempt to sell credit-card and financial information. Security firm SecureWorks found that prices varied from about \$30 for the log-on credential for a small e-commerce company to \$250 for the account information for a major financial institution. Gable noted that, while denial-of-service attacks have decreased in the last six months of 2006, spam levels have jumped.
Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/brief/491>
8. *April 27, InformationWeek* — **New image spam scheme hits photo-sharing sites.** Instead of embedding images in e-mail, spammers are embedding links to the images that are set up on popular photo-sharing sites. Spammers and hackers are taking a new tack in their evolving e-mail assault. Dmitri Alperovitch of Secure Computing, said that instead of embedding image spam inside of e-mail messages, cybercriminals are starting to embed only a link to a photo or image they've put up on a photo-sharing site. Alperovitch said that this makes it a lot easier and more cost effective for the spammers, who no longer have to embed a bandwidth-sucking image in every message spammed out. Image spam traditionally uses a graphic embedded in an e-mail rather than regular text because it makes it harder for antivirus software to detect words that generally send up red flags that the message is a piece of spam. Image spam is frequently used for promoting pump-and-dump stock scams or drugs such as Viagra. Alperovitch said this new wave of image spam uses the logos of popular brokerage firms or images of pharmaceutical pills.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/security/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=4TREZ1CAI0G5UQSNDLRCKHSCJUNN2JVN?articleID=199202199&articleID=199202199>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

9. *April 30, Los Angeles Times* — **Bay Area interchange collapse likely to cause weeks of chaos.** A gasoline tanker truck crashed and exploded into a tower of flames early Sunday, April 29, causing a 170-foot stretch of a major Bay Area freeway interchange to warp and collapse on the freeway below, authorities said. The accident forced the closure of two damaged sections of the heavily traveled maze east of the Bay Bridge, which carries 270,000 vehicles to and from San Francisco each day. Repairs are expected to disrupt traffic for weeks and, some say, months. As demolition of the damaged sections began late Sunday, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued an emergency declaration to help expedite repairs by streamlining contracting procedures and providing swift funding. The incident at the interchange, known locally as the MacArthur Maze, once again demonstrated the vulnerability of California's crowded freeway systems to serious disruption, whether from accidents or natural disasters such as the 1994 Northridge earthquake and the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. Sunday's collapse is expected not only to snarl commuter traffic but also the flow of trucks to the busy Port of Oakland, one of the nation's largest ports along with Los Angeles and Long Beach. The mayors of San Francisco and Oakland expressed fear that rebuilding could take months — and they braced for severe vehicle congestion Monday and for the coming weeks.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-tanker30apr30.0.3337688.story?coll=la-home-local>

10. *April 30, San Francisco Chronicle* — **First commute day: Free rides as transit leaders work on plan.** All transit systems are offering free rides on Monday, April 30, to ease the congestion anticipated on the region's freeways following the collapse of a major section of the MacArthur Maze. Officials also said they would add some extra trains, ferries, and buses at several transit agencies, but acknowledging that they were limited by staffing and the number of vehicles available. But officials acknowledge that they will not know how to best react until they gauge commuters' response to the closure of two key portions of East Bay freeways. Meanwhile, officials released a list of suggested detours in hope of spreading the traffic around. The detours are likely to ensure that the impacts of the closure — already expected to extend beyond the East Bay — will be felt acutely throughout the region. Transit spokesperson Randy Rentschler said the agencies would meet to develop a long-term plan, which would include extra BART and ferry service for the duration of the closure.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/04/30/ALTERNATIVES.TMP>

11. *April 30, Denver Post* — **DIA is getting more congested.** Denver International Airport (DIA) is getting more congested. One reason is more people are starting or ending flights at DIA, not just connecting through it. DIA was built with the expectation that connecting passengers would make up about 60 percent of visitors, said Rick Busch, DIA's director of planning. But that share is now about 41 percent, down from about 45 percent in 2000. About 47.3 million passengers used DIA last year. The airport is designed for 50 million passengers a year, though

it can expand well beyond that. Now, in the airport terminal and the surrounding infrastructure, "we're already exceeding capacity for the original design," Busch said. The increased share of passengers going to or from Denver means more people using the terminal, roads and parking around the airport. Changes in airline dynamics – including the rise of low-cost carriers such as Frontier Airlines and Southwest Airlines – have affected the makeup of airline passengers. DIA projects growth of 31 percent in commercial passenger traffic between 2006 and 2015.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/popular/ci_5780865

12. *April 30, Department of Transportation* — **U.S. and the European Union sign historic air transport agreement.** More affordable and convenient air travel for American consumers is on the horizon due to today's signing of an open-skies air transport agreement between the United States and the European Union, U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters said Monday, April 30. By expanding the ability of airlines to fly between Europe and the United States, this agreement will spur lower-priced and more accessible air travel for American and European consumers, promote greater access to U.S. and European markets, and increase healthy competition. The signing of the air transport agreement is the result of several years of meetings and discussions between American and European negotiators. With the approval of the deal, every U.S. and EU airline will now be permitted to fly between every city in the European Union and every city in the United States. It will also allow these airlines to set fares freely in accordance with market demand, and operate without restrictions on the number of flights, the aircraft used, or the routes chosen. In addition, the agreement will increase U.S. and EU cooperation and commitment to the highest standards of aviation safety and security. For more information on the U.S.– EU air transport agreement: <http://ostpxweb.ost.dot.gov>
Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot4207.htm>

13. *April 30, CNNMoney* — **Delta emerges from bankruptcy court.** Delta Air Lines emerged from bankruptcy early Monday, April 30, as a leaner but still independent carrier after a 19-month reorganization that saw it fight off a \$10 billion hostile takeover. The overhaul at Atlanta-based Delta, the nation's No. 3 airline, left it a much smaller carrier than the one that flew into bankruptcy in September 2005 – and helped feed an industry trend that has resulted in higher fares and much fuller planes on most U.S. carriers over the past year. Delta's domestic capacity is down about 10 percent since its bankruptcy, allowing it to fill about 84 percent of its seats on U.S. routes in the most recent month, compared to only 72 percent the month it filed for bankruptcy. That has helped it receive 15 percent more per mile flown by passengers in the most recent quarter, compared to the quarter in which it filed for bankruptcy. Delta, which got its name from its roots as a mail carrier in the Louisiana Delta in the early days of commercial aviation, will have \$2.5 billion exit financing to fund operations and a cost structure about \$3 billion a year less than when it went into bankruptcy, according to the airline.
Source: http://money.cnn.com/2007/04/30/news/companies/delta_bankruptcy/?postversion=2007043010

14. *April 29, Newsday (NY)* — **Transit worker killed in Brooklyn subway accident.** A New York City transit track worker was killed and another seriously injured yesterday when they were pinned under a G train in Brooklyn, police said. The transit employees were working on the tracks at the Hoyt–Schermerhorn Street station in Downtown Brooklyn at about 4:10 p.m. EDT when they were struck by the northbound G train, a police spokesperson said. The accident came just days after a track worker was killed by a train at Columbus Circle in

Manhattan. Both workers were at least partially crushed by the train, officials said, and one Marvin Franklin, 55, of Saint Albans — a two-decade Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) veteran — was pronounced dead at the scene. The other Jeff Hill, 41, employed by the MTA since 2005, was rushed to Bellevue Hospital Center in critical condition, police said. Following the accident, officials ordered an immediate suspension of maintenance involving track signal, power and infrastructure workers.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/newyork/ny-nytrai0430.0.5109614.story?coll=ny-top-headlines>

15. *April 26, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-756: Transportation Security: DHS Efforts to Eliminate Redundant Background Check Investigations (Report)**. Since 9/11, the federal government has taken steps to ensure that transportation workers are screened to ensure that they do not pose a security risk. However, the number of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) background check programs has raised concerns that such workers may be subject to redundant background check programs. The Security and Accountability for Every Port Act of 2006 required the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study of those DHS background check programs similar to the one required of truck drivers to obtain a hazardous material endorsement (HME). For this study, GAO examined DHS background check programs to identify (1) potential redundancies and inconsistencies, if any, connected with these programs, and (2) actions, if any, DHS is taking or planning to coordinate its background check programs. To address these objectives, GAO examined selected background check programs, interviewed DHS officials and private stakeholders, and reviewed relevant documents. GAO recommends that DHS ensure that its coordination plan (1) includes implementation steps, time frames, and budget requirements, (2) discusses potential costs/benefits of program standardization, and (3) explore options for coordinating and aligning background checks within DHS and other federal agencies. DHS generally agreed with GAO's findings and recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07756high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-756>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

16. *April 30, Associated Press* — **Farm animal veterinarians on the decline**. Public health experts are concerned that a shortage of farm animal veterinarians could lead to disease outbreaks, potentially endangering human health and risking the nation's food supply. The American Veterinary Medical Association estimates the shortage at a relatively small four percent. But health officials say even the small gap increases the potential for diseases to go undetected. Concerns have centered on more than 800 diseases that can spread from animals to humans, such as salmonella and E. coli. With fewer veterinarians, more duties are falling to

farmers and ranchers. Some worry that the long-term result will be an inability to detect diseases early or address outbreaks, especially in remote areas. Experts said the veterinarian shortage could lead to several troubling scenarios. Salmonella in an untreated dairy herd could be spread by workers who come into contact with feces. Similarly, people who defeather or slaughter chickens infected with a certain strain of avian flu could get others sick. Farmers likely wouldn't notice an illness caused by anthrax until many animals were sick, potentially wiping out a whole herd. Foot and mouth disease could enter the U.S. and could hit multiple producers if not detected.

Source: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/405/story/29509.html>

17. *April 27, University of Missouri Integrated Pest Management Newsletter* — **Possible threat to horses from eastern tent caterpillars.** In Kentucky, six years ago, the equine industry suffered an epidemic called "mare reproductive loss syndrome," abbreviated MRLS. It caused the deaths of fetuses in all breeds of horses and cost the industry \$336 million. Today, MRLS has been linked to eastern tent caterpillars. The current thinking of researchers at the University of Kentucky is that as horses accidentally eat the caterpillars, the hairs of the caterpillars penetrate the digestive tract of the horses and cause bacterial infections. The result is death of the fetus. The biology of this native North American insect begins with moths laying egg masses on the limbs of several tree species including wild cherry, apple, crabapple, hawthorn, maple, pear, and plum. Eastern Tent caterpillar is best controlled on the tree as insecticides for control on forages are limited. There are several products recommended for control on the tree.

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=46578

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Food Sector

18. *April 30, USA TODAY* — **Deadly fish virus threatens species.** A deadly Ebola-like virus is killing fish of all types in the Great Lakes, a development some scientists fear could trigger disaster for the nation's freshwater fish. Because of a lack of genetic resistance to viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), fish populations could be damaged in the same way the smallpox virus struck Native Americans and Dutch elm disease decimated elm trees, said Jim Winton, chief of fish health at the U.S. Geological Survey in Seattle. Viral hemorrhagic septicemia has been found in Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, Lake Huron, the St. Lawrence Seaway, the Niagara River and an inland lake in New York. The aggressive virus, which causes fish to hemorrhage, was unexpectedly found in the Great Lakes in 2005. Last year, it resulted in large fish kills that struck at least 20 species. Scientists are watching to see whether the disease returns in mid-May, when water in the lakes warms to temperatures at which the virus attacks. "VHS is the most important and dangerous fish virus known worldwide," Winton said. "Its discovery in our fresh water is disturbing and potentially catastrophic."

Source: <http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070430/NEWS08/704300402/1025/NEWS04>

19. *April 28, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **Joint update: FDA/USDA update on tainted animal feed.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) continue their investigation of imported rice protein concentrate which has been found to contain melamine and melamine-related compounds. FDA and USDA

believe the likelihood of illness after eating pork from swine fed the contaminated product would be very low. As announced on April 26, swine known to have been fed adulterated (contaminated) product will not be approved to enter the food supply. There exists no evidence of harm to humans associated with the processed pork product, and therefore no recall of meat products processed from these animals is being issued. The assessment that, if there were to be harm to human health, it would be very low, is based on a number of factors, including the dilution of the contaminating melamine and melamine-related compounds from the original rice protein concentrate as it moves through the food system. First it is a partial ingredient in pet food; second, it is only part of feed given to the hogs; third, it is not known to accumulate in the hogs and hogs excrete melamine in their urine; fourth pork is only a small part of the average American diet.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01620.html>

20. *April 28, Xinhua (China)* — **California warns against eating poisoned seafood.** The California Department of Health Services on Friday, April 27, issued a warning against eating some seafood poisoned by nerve toxin domoic acid. They listed the seafood as sport-harvested shellfish, sardines anchovies and sport-harvested or commercially caught lobster and crab from the California coast. An unusually high level of the nerve toxin domoic acid found in naturally occurring red tide was identified as the culprit that is killing sea birds and marine mammals along the California coast, according to health officials. The deaths of hundreds of marine mammals and birds in the past recent weeks were linked with the toxin off the California coast. The toxin originated from algae bloom that sickens birds and mammals.

Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2007-04/28/content_6040099.htm

21. *April 27, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **Natural Balance Pet Foods, Inc. recalls products in response to American Nutrition Inc. pet food recall.** Because of the pet food recall initiated Friday, April 27, by American Nutrition Inc., Natural Balance Pet Foods has announced it is issuing a nationwide recall of a number of canned products manufactured by American Nutrition. This action is limited to four specific Natural Balance canned formulas: Chicken Canned Dog Formula 13 oz, Beef Canned Dog Formula 13 oz, Lamb Canned Dog Formula 13 oz, and the 3oz and 6 oz Ocean Fish Canned Cat Formulas. Natural Balance Pet Foods is taking this action after learning the Food and Drug Administration confirmed rice protein concentrate used by American Nutrition contained melamine, a substance not approved for use in food. These products are being recalled in addition to our previously recalled Venison and Brown Rice canned and bagged dog foods, Venison and Brown Rice dog treats, and Venison and Green Pea dry cat food.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/naturalbalance204_07.htm

22. *April 27, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **Sierra Pet Products issues nationwide recalls.** SIERRA PET PRODUCTS, LLC, Wilton, CT, is initiating a nationwide recall of all canned dog foods, all canned cat food and all dog treats sold under its "Harmony Farms" brand. The Company is taking this voluntary action after learning that the FDA has confirmed the presence of melamine, a substance not approved for use in food, in rice protein concentrate used by the contract manufacturer in the production of some of these products.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/sierra04_07.html

23.

April 26, U.S. Department of Agriculture — **American Nutrition, Inc. issues voluntary recall.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) informed American Nutrition, Inc. Thursday, April 26, that certain samples of rice protein shipped to its production facility have been contaminated with melamine. American Nutrition issued a voluntary recall of pet foods including:

Canned cat food: Blue Buffalo Spa Select Hairball Control Oven Roasted Chicken; Blue Buffalo Spa Select Kitten Recipe Oven Roasted Chicken; Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul Kitten Formula; Harmony Farms Country Chicken Entrée; and Natural Balance Ocean Fish Formula.

Canned dog food: Blue Buffalo Beef Dinner; Blue Buffalo Chicken Dinner; Blue Buffalo Hearty Venison Dinner; Blue Buffalo Lamb Dinner; Blue Buffalo Salmon Dinner; Blue Buffalo Turkey Meatloaf Dinner; Canine Caviar Gourmet Beaver; Canine Caviar Gourmet Turkey; Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul Puppy Formula; Diamond Lamb & Rice; Harmony Farms Beef; Harmony Farms Chicken; Harmony Farms Lamb; Harmony Farms Salmon; Kirkland Signature Premium Dog 2-Flavor Variety Pack 14oz (24-pack); Mulligan Stew Chicken; Mulligan Stew Turkey; Natural Balance Beef Formula; Natural Balance Chicken Formula; Natural Balance Lamb Formula; Natural Balance Venison & Brown Rice; Baked dog treats: Natural Balance Venison & Brown Rice Formula Baked Dog Treats; and Blue Buffalo Health Bars Baked With Apples & Yogurt Dog Treats.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/americannutrition04_07.html

- 24. *April 26, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — Blue Buffalo recalls can and biscuit products due to tampering by American Nutrition Inc.** According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, American Nutrition Inc. (ANI), the manufacturer of Blue Buffalo Company's cans and biscuits, has been adding rice protein concentrate to can formulas without the company's knowledge or approval. The can formulas never contained any rice protein concentrate. While this activity by ANI is in itself unlawful, the situation is further clouded by the fact that ANI has been receiving rice protein concentrate from Wilber-Ellis, some of which the FDA has determined to be contaminated with melamine. Buffalo Company has recalled all "BLUE" brand can dog foods, all "Spa Select" brand can cat foods and all "BLUE Health Bar" treats. All "BLUE" dry natural food for dogs and "Spa Select" dry natural foods for cats are not affected by this recall and are safe for consumption.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/bluebuffalo204_07.html

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

- 25. *April 29, Telegraph (India)* — New strain of dengue suspected for 31 in Nadia, India.**

Thirty-one people in Nadia, India, are suffering from a mystery fever suspected to be a new strain of dengue that has already killed three, district authorities said Sunday, April 29. Thirty

of them, including two who fell ill Sunday, are from Betai village and one is from Krishnagunj. District magistrate Onkar Singh Meena, quoting a report from the state health department, Sunday scaled down the death toll from the five reported Saturday. He said Gobinda Sarkar and his friend Nityagopal Chakraborty had died of viral encephalitis and not dengue. Tests at the School of Tropical Medicine on seven patients have revealed that the fever is a new strain of dengue, different from the three known types — classical, haemorrhagic and shock syndrome. However, some uncertainty prevails over the figures cited by the Nadia authorities in the absence of confirmed test results for all the patients.

Source: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1070430/asp/bengal/story_77169_10.asp

- 26. April 28, Associated Press — Virginia doctor convicted of drug trafficking.** A pain-management doctor who prescribed large amounts of opiates and drew patients from across the country to his northern Virginia clinic has been convicted on 16 counts of drug trafficking by a federal jury. The jury acquitted William E. Hurwitz on 17 other counts on Friday, April 27, and a judge dismissed 17 others, including the most serious charge: drug trafficking resulting in death. It was the second time in three years that a federal jury convicted Hurwitz of drug trafficking. His 2004 conviction and 25-year prison sentence was tossed out by a federal appeals court, which ruled that a judge improperly barred the jury from considering whether Hurwitz was acting in good faith. Hurwitz faces up to 20 years on each count when he is sentenced on July 13.

Source: http://health.yahoo.com/news/174595;_ylt=Amk3Wh4uu7ZyIDcCF6P QRvymxbAB

- 27. April 27, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy — Panel supports EU approval of cell-based flu vaccine.** A committee that reviews medical product applications for the European Union (EU) on Thursday, April 26, recommended approval of a cell-based seasonal influenza vaccine made by Novartis, improving the company's chance of becoming the first to market a flu vaccine grown in cell culture instead of in eggs. The Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP), which reviews applications for 27 EU countries, found that Novartis's Optaflu vaccine, given to more than 3,400 people during clinical studies, met the CHMP's immunogenicity criteria. In a statement released Thursday, the CHMP said it concluded there is "a favorable benefit to risk ratio" for Optaflu and therefore recommended its authorization. The European Commission is not bound by the committee's recommendations but usually follows them. If the European Commission approves Optaflu, it may become the first seasonal flu vaccine made with cell-culture production techniques to go on the market.

Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/apr2707optaflu.html>

- 28. April 27, Reuters — U.S. health agency stages bird flu war game.** A leading U.S. health agency staged a war game last week to test its response to an outbreak of avian flu on American soil. The exercise, which ended on Friday, April 27, was designed to simulate how the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) would marshal its resources, coordinate with other branches of government and, crucially, reassure the public while preparing it for a possible pandemic. During the drill, the CDC used its Director's Emergency Operations Center, a high-tech command post at which scores of doctors and public health experts assist decision makers who in turn brief government leaders. The exercise is part of a long-term plan involving multiple layers of government to prepare for public emergencies. The game, set up by a team of former military planners, is followed by an extensive effort to analyze mistakes. The next stage of the exercise to be held over the summer will start with the assumption that the bird

flu outbreak has become a full blown pandemic.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N27259685.htm>

29. *April 23, Government Health IT* — **RAND warns of pandemic underpreparedness.** The RAND Corporation last week sounded the alarm for refocusing the nation's attention on a potential pandemic outbreak, warning that the country is underprepared for a disaster that could claim as many as two million U.S. lives. "We are overdue for a pandemic outbreak," said Nicole Lurie, M.D., co-director of RAND Center for Domestic and International Health Security, at a briefing Friday, April 27. The federal government has invested more than \$5 billion since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, to upgrade the country's ability to prevent and respond to large-scale public health emergencies, she said. In contrast, public health has not been well funded for the past 25 years. Lurie said progress has been made in using technology to improve communications and pandemic surveillance but that more investment was needed. "There's been lots of payoff in investing in technology," she said. Those investments have allowed public health agencies to make gains in two critical areas — communications and surveillance. Despite these advances, Lurie said, there are still huge gaps in preparedness.

Source: <http://www.govhealthit.com/article102525-04-20-07-Web>

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Government Sector

30. *April 30, Associated Press* — **Delaware Community Colleges close due to threats.** Delaware County Community College officials said all five Pennsylvania campuses would remain closed Monday, April 30, due to a series of e-mail threats received last week. Departments at two campuses received about a dozen e-mails Thursday threatening "violence against numerous persons." Officials said the college, which serves about 10,000 day students, decided to close down its campuses in Exton, Downingtown, Marple, Sharon Hill, and Broomall in Delaware County. Authorities said they were trying to track down the sender, whom they suspected might be a student, and focusing on the Exton campus. College officials said they would not reopen the campuses until they were assured by authorities it was safe to do so. Officials said the closure was prompted in part by the massacre earlier this month at Virginia Tech, in which 33 people died in the deadliest shooting rampage in modern U.S. history.

Source: http://www.wusa9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=58105

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *April 29, Press-Register (AL)* — **Sheriff, AHA want defibrillators in all Mobile County, Alabama, patrol cars.** In an effort to save more lives in Mobile County, AL, the American Heart Association (AHA) and the Mobile County Sheriff's Office is raising money to outfit patrol cars with automated external defibrillators (AEDs). "We'd like to have them in every patrol car, but we'll start (installing them) as they become available and work our way from the farthest out," Sheriff Sam Cochran said. With about 1,200 square miles — much of it rural —

of Mobile County to patrol, deputies can find themselves the first responders to medical calls in areas that may take an ambulance a long time to find, Cochran said. According to the AHA, roughly 510 people in Mobile County will experience sudden cardiac arrest this year, but only 26 will survive. An AED used in those situations can drastically increase the survival rates of a sudden cardiac arrest. The AED shocks the heart back into a normal rhythm with an electric current. If the electrical shock is not needed, for whatever reason, the machine can sense that electronically and does not deliver the jolt.

Source: <http://www.al.com/news/mobileregister/index.ssf?/base/news/117783842439720.xml&coll=3>

32. *April 29, Boston Globe* — **Rhode Island to stage massive hurricane drill.** Rhode Island is prepping for the worst hurricane to ever crash into New England — on paper at least. About 250 federal emergency management officials plan to stage a response to the fictional "Hurricane Yvette." The storm will burst dams, flood streets and whittle away the coastline. Officials will be charged with preparing the evacuation of 130,000 Rhode Islanders. The hope is that the federal government team will score well during the drill, improving upon the botched response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The drill is one of several major emergency-preparedness exercises taking place across the nation over the next three weeks. The federal agencies will focus on whether communication systems with state and local authorities are more compatible today than they were in chaos following Katrina. "This is an extremely valuable drill," Robert J. Warren, executive director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, told The Providence Journal. "It's going to test the guidelines they put in place after Katrina. I think it's valuable for the state to go to this level, the national level."

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/rhode_island/articles/2007/04/29/rhode_island_to_stage_massive_hurricane_drill/

33. *April 29, ABC 7 News (CO)* — **Biological disaster drill in Colorado prepares crews for worst-case scenarios.** Rescue crews from numerous departments in Colorado prepared for the worst in a mock biological disaster on Sunday, April 29. Firefighters from several metro area jurisdictions received hands-on training provided by the Department of Homeland Security. Emergency crews tried to decontaminate people as quickly as possible in the mock biological disaster situation. Organizers said while it was only a drill, they wanted the situation to feel as real as possible. The drills are intended to train rescue crews to respond as quickly and efficiently as possible during a biological crisis when time is critical. While the mock biological disaster didn't go perfectly, no mass casualty event is ever going to be perfect, organizers said. The participants aimed to decontaminate 300 people every hour. While they didn't reach that goal Sunday, they said they are satisfied with the results. Organizers said there is an obvious need for additional and ongoing training.

Source: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/13219003/detail.html>

34. *April 29, Baltimore Sun* — **Maryland disaster drill hits some snags.** Though a Maryland Emergency Management Agency administrator praised Carroll County's "Hurricane Zephyr" disaster exercise, if that crisis had been real, the county's call center would have been overburdened, the paperwork and instructions given at a temporary shelter confusing, and communications delayed between dispatchers and crews at the site of a train derailment in Taneytown, MD. "We did hit some snafus ...," Debbie Saylor, director of Carroll's exercise, said during a debriefing session with participants. Of the emergency operations center set up in

the county office building, Saylor said, "it is very understaffed." In the simulation, an 89-car train derailed after hitting debris on the tracks two days after a hurricane, causing an explosion and propane leak-fueled fire. About 70 county roads were flooded or covered with wreckage. Residents, some who had their pets with them, had to be evacuated to the National Guard Armory in Westminster. This imaginary scenario was part of a regional drill Thursday, April 26, conducted by emergency offices in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, in coordination with federal agencies.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/carroll/bal-ca.hurricane29apr29.0.1091469.story?coll=bal-local-carroll>

35. *April 25, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **President declares major disasters for Maine, New Jersey, and New Hampshire.** David Paulison, the head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), announced Wednesday, April 25, that federal disaster aid has been made available for the state of Maine to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and inland and coastal flooding beginning on April 15, 2007, and continuing. Funding will be available for the counties of Androscoggin, Cumberland, Kennebec, Knox, Oxford, and York. On Thursday, April 26, Paulison announced that federal disaster aid has been made available for the state of New Jersey to help people and communities recover from the effects of severe storms and inland and coastal flooding during the period of April 14–20, 2007. Federal funding will be made available to affected individuals in Bergen, Burlington, Essex, Passaic, Somerset, and Union counties. On Friday, April 27, Paulison announced that federal disaster aid has been made available for the state of New Hampshire to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on April 15, 2007, and continuing. Federal funding available will be made available to affected individuals in Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, and Strafford counties.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/recentnews.fema>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

36. *April 30, SC Magazine* — **Second Adobe Photoshop flaw disclosed in a week.** The hacker who last week disclosed a vulnerability in Adobe Photoshop posted exploit code for a fresh vulnerability in the product Monday, April 30. The most recently discovered vulnerability exists in Photoshop versions CS2 and CS3 and Photoshop Elements version 5. The flaw is caused by a boundary error within the PNG.8BI Photoshop Format Plugin when handling PNG files, according to a Secunia advisory. The flaw was ranked "highly critical" by Secunia. The vulnerability can be exploited to cause a stack-based buffer overflow via a malicious PNG file. Secunia recommended users avoid untrusted PNG files, adding that the flaw can be exploited to run arbitrary code.

Secunia advisory: <http://secunia.com/advisories/25044/>

Source: <http://scmagazine.com/us/news/article/653839/second-adobe-photoshop-flaw-disclosed-week/>

37. *April 27, Nature* — **Quantum cryptography is hacked.** A team of researchers has, for the first time, hacked into a network protected by quantum encryption. Quantum cryptography uses the

laws of quantum mechanics to encode data securely. Most researchers consider such quantum networks to be nearly 100% uncrackable. But a group from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, MA, was able to 'listen in' using a sort of quantum-mechanical wiretap. The trick allowed them to tease out about half of the data, in a way that couldn't be detected by those transmitting or receiving the message. The group admits that their hack isn't yet capable of eavesdropping on a real network. "It is not something that currently could attack a commercial system," says Jeffrey Shapiro, a physicist at MIT and one of the authors on the study. But they expect that one day it will be able to do so, if quantum encryption isn't adequately adapted to stop such hackers from succeeding. The idea for this cunning trick has been around since 1998, but nobody had put it into practice until now. The team's experimental proof-of-concept is published in the 25 April issue of the journal *Physical Review A*.

Abstract: <http://scitation.aip.org/getabs/servlet/GetabsServlet?prog=normal&id=PLRAAN000075000004042327000001&idtype=cvips&gifs=Yess>

Source: <http://www.nature.com/news/2007/070423/full/070423-10.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard

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Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

38. *April 29, Associated Press* — Seventy percent of Georgia blaze contained. Firefighters have managed to contain about 70 percent of the largest wildfire in Georgia history, which had charred 100 square miles of forest and swampland, officials said Sunday, April 29. A few families remained evacuated from their homes on the opposite side of U.S. Highway 1 from the main blaze, in an area where smaller spot fires started during the weekend, said Georgia Forestry Commission spokesperson Susan Reisch. Firefighters patrolled a 16-mile stretch of the highway, which remained closed, and the main body of the wildfire had not spread east across the highway into miles of tinder-dry forest. Wind gusting to 15 mph and extreme drought conditions with no rain in the forecast mean the fire will continue to rage for at least another week, Reisch said. The blaze started April 16 near the Okefenokee Swamp, west of U.S. 1, which connects Waycross, GA, to Jacksonville, FL.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/29/AR2007042900331.html>

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